

First Congregational United Church of Christ,
Ypsilanti, MI
“Follow Me”



<https://sharonxx.wordpress.com/2012/07/14/many-roads-to-god/>

No matter who you are or where you are
on life's journey, you're welcome here.

January 24, 2016

10:00 am

Third Sunday after Epiphany



*An open and affirming community
committed to peace and justice*

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:

NCH (Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")
Sing! (Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)
ES (Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

*All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak
with the Pastor or any member of the Community.*

Prelude

Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn**

"Sing a Different Song"

150 NCH - Steve McGhee

Welcome

Donna Eyster

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.

We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

****Please rise in body or spirit as you are able***

Announcements

Donna Eyster

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ring the Bell

Solo

Tiffanie Waldron

Call to Worship (Unison)

Donna Eyster

On this holy day, we come together to make sense of our lives. We look to your Word, O God, as a source of understanding. Revive our souls that our hearts may rejoice in your presence. Cleanse and enlighten us with your truth. Liberate us from self-imposed limitations. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our heart be acceptable in your sight. Amen.

— Adapted from “Led by Love”, Lavon Bayler

*Hymn	“Arise, Your Light Is Come”	164 NCH
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LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament	Nehemiah 8:1-12	Donna Eyster
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Hymn	“Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child”	136 NCH
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Children's Time	<i>children are invited to come forward</i>	
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New Testament	Luke 4:14-21	Carol Hall
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Sermon	“Learning Together”	Carol Hall
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*Hymn	“You Are Salt for the Earth, O People”	181 NCH
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CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People		Carol Hall
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*All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time.
Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Traditional Version		Carol Hall
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When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Most compassionate Life-giver,
 May we honor and praise you;
 May we work with you to establish
 your new order of justice, peace and love.
 Give us what we need for growth,
 And help us, through forgiving others, to accept forgiveness.
 Strengthen us in the time of testing,
 That we may resist all evil.
 For all the tenderness,
 Strength and love are yours, now and forever. Amen.
 - W. Wallace, Rainbow Cathedral Church, Tacoma WA

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Responsive)

Donna Eyster

One: We are a part of the body of Christ which extends around the world.
 Together, we form a caring community, united in spite of many difference in
 appearance, understanding and function.

Many: If others are suffering, we too will suffer.

One: When we have the ability to help, it is a joy to do so.

**Many: May our offerings preach good news, proclaim liberty, and recover
among us all the ability to see and hear and respond. Amen.**

— Adapted from “Led by Love”, Lavon Bayler

Offertory

Steve McGhee

***Doxology**

“Take My Gifts”

562 NCH

*Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
 Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
 Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
 Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!*

***Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

Donna Eyster

**“In the spirit of Christ, we give our best for the world. We share what you have
 allowed us to use, giving thanks for the joy of helping others and entering into
 partnership with them. We dedicate our varied gifts as apostles, prophets,
 teachers, healers, helpers, administrators, speakers, workers... in all we do,
 we will seek to serve you by sharing your love. Amen.”**

— Adapted from “Led by Love”, Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

*Hymn of Departure

“Drops of Water”

60 ES

*Benediction

Carol Hall

One: The Spirit of God accompanies us on our journey.

We are anointed for the sharing of good news.

Many: **Our words and our deeds can make a difference.**

In purity of heart, we seek to serve.

In quiet confidence, we dare to change and grow.

Amen.

— Adapted From “Led by Love”, Lavon Bayler

Postlude

Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace

Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.

Open and Affirming Covenant of **First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti.**

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions.

All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith.

We strive to demonstrate in all ways that “NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE’S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!”

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980

website: www.ypsiucc.com



God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Our Volunteers	Today: Jan 24 th	Next Sunday: Jan 31 st
Usher	Wayne Burling	Wayne Burling
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Donna Eyster	Donna Eyster
Worship Set-up	Glenda Horvath	Donna Eyster
Acolyte	Lyle Molter	Lyle Molter
Friendship Time	Glenda Horvath	Patty Sherwood
Sunday School	Alex Goldsmith	Anne Marie N-T

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO MEETING: February 7, 2016, immediately following the worship service, we will hold the **Annual Meeting** of the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Old business, information, reports and new business will be brought before the Congregation at that time.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

NEW ADDRESS: Lorraine Sayles' new address; Orchard Hills Manor, 2139 Georgetown Blvd., Ann Arbor, 48105. Her phone number is the same as always (734) 483-3849.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's address: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

KROGER FUNDRAISER: HAVE YOU RE-REGISTERED WITH KROGER!! Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card **MUST** register. **Last Year's registration expires May 1st** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "REGISTER". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

OUR WEBSITE: <http://www.ypsiucc.org> Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913>.

OUR CHURCH'S MISSIONS

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and **Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights**, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WICIR>.

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: A coalition of Open and Affirming United Church of Christ churches in Michigan. For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition**, or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website <http://www.mi-onc.org> or on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/>

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition)**. In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation. See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

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### **Today's Cover Art**

<https://sharonxx.wordpress.com/2012/07/14/many-roads-to-god/>

From Blog...

### *The many roads to God...*

Saturday, July 14, 2012 by [Sharon xx](#)

I have been pondering lately on whether or not my denomination of choice [and yes, it should be a choice, even if the choice is to be non~demonimational] defines the way I approach and live out my faith?